

Comments on Estimated Production and Utilization of Grain in the  
USSR, 1955/56-1963/64

Estimates of grain production are calculated independently in CIA as a check against official Soviet announcements. We believe that beginning with 1958 official Soviet statistics have greatly overstated the size of the harvest. Except for 1955/56 and 1957/58, the figures for production in the attached tables are CIA estimates.

The trade data in the attached tables are based on official statistics released by the Soviet Union and other countries. The official statistics on trade are considered to be generally reliable. Because of the lack of official data it was necessary to estimate the trade for 1962/63 and 1963/64.

Very little information is released by the Soviets on their domestic utilization of grain. The estimates of domestic utilization in the attached tables should be considered only approximations rather than precise measures.

The final column (the "Residual for Feed and Reserves") in the attached tables is the total availability minus various domestic uses. Thus the "Residuals for Feed and Reserves" are probably the least accurate of the estimates in the tables.

Table 1. Estimated Production and Utilization of Grain in the USSR, 1955/56 - 1963/64

Million Metric Tons								
Year (1 Jul. - 30 Jun)	Production 1/	Trade 2/	Total Availability	Waste 3/	Seed 4/	Industrial Use 5/	Food 6/	Residual For Feed and Reserves
1955/56	106.8	-2.4	104.4	6.4	18.0	4.0	47.5	28.5
1956/57	115.0	-5.3	109.7	6.9	17.4	4.0	48.3	33.1
1957/58	105.0	-4.9	100.1	6.3	17.5	4.0	47.1	25.2
1958/59	125.0	-5.4	119.6	7.5	16.8	4.5	45.9	44.9
1959/60	100.0	-6.1	93.9	6.0	17.0	4.5	46.7	19.7
1960/61	100.0	-6.6	93.4	6.0	18.0	4.5	45.4	19.5
1961/62	115.0	-7.2	107.8	6.9	19.0	5.0	46.1	30.8
1962/63	115.0	-6.5	108.5	6.9	19.6	5.0	46.9	30.1
1963/64	94.0 to 100.0	+6.0 to +8.0	100.0 to 108.0	6.0	19.6	5.0	45.2	24.2 to 32.2

1. Estimated (except for 1955/56 and 1957/58). The production estimates refer to the first year in the split years indicated. The estimate for 1963/64 is preliminary.

2. Net trade for the split years used in this table was calculated from Soviet foreign trade data which are reported on a calendar year basis, by assuming that two-thirds of the total grain trade takes place during the first half of the calendar year (last half of the consumption year). Justification for this assumption is the fact that a good grain crop in the USSR is most clearly reflected in increased grain exports during the following calendar year. Trade figures for 1962/63 and 1963/64 are estimates since Soviet trade data are not available as yet for these years.

3. Waste of grain after having been put into storage facilities is estimated to be about 6 percent of production. This waste factor is based upon US experience and thus may tend to understate somewhat the wastage of grain in the USSR. Abnormal losses of grain between harvesting and storage which occur occasionally in the USSR are taken into account in the grain production estimates.

4. Seeding rate of 1.4 centners per hectare applied to the reported grain acreage of the following year. This average seeding rate was derived by weighting the seeding rates for the different grains in the USSR by the acreage seeded to each grain. Grain acreage in 1964 is expected to be about the same as in 1963, although some reduction would occur if a continuation of dry weather caused an increase in fallowing in the New Lands area.

Table 1. Estimated Production and Utilization of Grain in the USSR, 1955/56 - 1963/64 (continued)

5. In January 1954 Khrushchev indicated that industrial use of grain amounted to about 4 million tons. Efforts on the part of the Soviet leaders to curtail the use of grain for these purposes are believed to have had little success.

6. Assumes the following consumption rates applied to population as of 1 January (Kgs. per capita):

1955/56 - 240	1958/59 - 220	1961/62 - 210
1956/57 - 240	1959/60 - 220	1962/63 - 210
1957/58 - 230	1960/61 - 210	1963/64 - 200

Table 2  
Estimated Production and Utilization of Wheat in the USSR  
1955/56-1963/64

Year (1 July-30 June)	Million Metric Tons							
	Production <u>1/</u>	Net Trade <u>2/</u>	Total Availability	Waste <u>3/</u>	Seed <u>4/</u>	Industrial Use <u>5/</u>	Food <u>6/</u>	Residual for Feed and Reserves <u>7/</u>
1955/56	47.0	-1.3	45.7	2.8	8.7	2.0	31.7	0.5
1956/57	57.0	-3.9	53.1	3.4	9.8	2.0	32.2	5.7
1957/58	58.0	-4.1	53.9	3.5	9.4	2.0	32.8	6.2
1958/59	63.0	-5.1	57.9	3.8	8.9	2.0	31.3	11.9
1959/60	55.0	-5.6	49.4	3.3	6.5	2.5	31.8	3.3
1960/61	46.0	-4.7	41.3	2.8	8.9	2.5	32.4	-5.3
1961/62	55.0	-4.6	50.4	3.3	9.5	2.5	33.0	2.1
1962/63	57.0	-4.1	52.9	3.4	9.4	2.5	36.8	0.8
1963/64	40.0	-6.0 to -8.0	46.0 to 48.0	2.4	9.4	2.5	31.6	0.1 to 2.1

1. See footnote 1 of Table 1.

2. See footnote 2 of Table 1.

3. See footnote 3 of Table 1.

4. About 1.4 centners of wheat per hectare are used for seeding in the USSR.

5. Estimated. See footnote 5 of Table 1.

6. Assumes the following consumption rates applied to population as of 1 January (kilograms per capita): 1955/56-1957/58 - 160; 1958/59-1961/62 - 150; 1962/63 - 165; and 1963/64 - 140. Food use of an additional 3 million tons of wheat in 1962/63 (over the 1958/59-1961/62 rate) is estimated to have been brought about by the shortfall in the 1962 potato crop.

7. The amount of wheat feed probably varies widely from year to year, depending on the quality of the wheat available as well as the total feed situation.

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Approved For Release 2005/04/21 : CIA-RDP66B00403R000400090003-4

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION		REGISTRY	
SOURCE	OGC/LC	CIA CONTROL NO.	184046
DOC. NO.		DATE DOCUMENT RECEIVED	16 Jan 64
DOC. DATE	15 Jan 64		
COPY NO.	2		
NUMBER OF PAGES	211		
NUMBER OF ATTACHMENTS			

DCI Briefing - 15 January 1964  
A. M. and P. M.  
Mahon Defense Subcommittee of  
House Appropriations Committee

24 Jan 64

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